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Rash of Traffic Accidents Hits Area This Weekend; Four Hurt



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS—Diane Saba, first baby to be born in Torrance in 1961, poses regally for this exclusive Torrance Press portrait. Arriving at exactly one second after midnight, Jan. 1, she just missed splitting the starting wire which might have qualified her as the "First Baby of 1961," which she is, and

as a \$600 deduction on her father's 1960 income tax return, which she is not. Diane, who weighs in at a strapping four pounds, 12 ounces, was born at Little Company of Mary Hospital, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Saba, 1314 Fonthill Ave.

ONE SECOND AFTER MIDNIGHT . . .

Diane Saba, 'First Baby of 1961, for Torrance, County, Is Contest Winner

Torrance's "First Baby of 1961" arrived just one jump behind the starting gun. It was learned last week from Little Company of Mary Hospital officials. The first lusty cry of the new infant, Diane Saba, was heard at exactly one second after midnight, qualifying her not only for the Torrance title but as the first arrival of the year in Los Angeles County. Although records have not been checked it is quite likely that she was the first arrival of 1961 in the United States. Arrival time is clocked by the first cry after birth.

NAMED WINNER

Judges picked Diane as the winner of the Torrance Press' annual competition to determine the first baby of the year after they discovered that the nearest local contender arrived at the finish line more than four hours later.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Saba, 1314 Fonthill Ave., Torrance, the infant weighed four pounds, 12 ounces at birth.

Timing on her arrival was so close that off-duty hospital attendants crowded around the delivery room with watches in their hands waiting for midnight to pass.

As winner of the competition, Diane will gain a host of "godfathers." Torrance merchants, who anxiously awaited her arrival, have contributed a list of valuable prizes for the first baby and for its parents.

LIST OF PRIZES

Heading the list of prizes

that will be awarded the newcomer are a General Electric Baby Food Warmer, donated by McMabans Furniture, 1306 Sartori; three dozen Birdseye diapers from Foods Co. Market, 17500 Crenshaw; a \$5 savings account in her name from Southwest Savings and Loan, 1603 Cravens; a surprise gift from McCown Drug Stores, 1327 El Prado; a free portrait from Photo Arts Studio,

1311 Post; a surprise gift from Verberg Dairy, 2093 W. 174th St.; and the baby's first set of Red Cross shoes from the Torrance Bootery, 1333 El Prado.

For the new mother there will be a cologne or perfume set from Ruth Davis, 1331 El Prado; and for the new father a carton of his favorite cigarettes from Holiday Liquors, 3531 Torrance Blvd.



CONGRATULATIONS—Mrs. Clara A. Conner, superintendent of the Torrance post office, was one of the first county postal officials to extend congratulations to J. Edward Day, named postmaster-general in the cabinet of President-elect John F. Kennedy. Here Mrs. Conner and Supervisor Kenneth Hahn offer their their best wishes to the new appointee.

POLICE PROTECTION . . .

Council to Consider Businessmen's Plea

A letter, circulated and signed by the directors of the Downtown (Torrance) Merchants' Association, was presented to the City Council last week, and will probably be placed on Tuesday's agenda.

In an editorial printed in last Thursday's Torrance Press it was pointed out that merchants were upset at the rash of burglaries and armed robberies that have beset the local business districts and would demand immediate Council action and more police protection.

In an interview with Press reporters, Chief Percy Bennett stated:

AWARE OF PROBLEM

"We are well aware of the problems that beset this community. Last July we requested the addition of more strength to the department and the Council authorized the employment of six additional officers. The interim period has been spent recruiting, screening, and training candidates."

"I would also like to point out that many of the burglaries of businesses took place after repeated warnings of police officers that ladders against the side of the building, or high windows left open, were an invitation for such crimes to be committed."

Letter submitted to the city said, in part, "In the past few weeks several downtown stores have had display windows broken by burglars. One of these stores has been attacked twice. In addition,

there have been numerous robberies, including one armed robbery in broad daylight.

GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

"We realize the tremendous responsibility of protecting a city of this size with inadequate number of police officers. However, as businessmen, we sincerely believe we are entitled to more protection."

Letter was signed by Abe Robinson, president, and directors of the merchants association.

A detailed report, showing the disposition of the present Torrance police force, and its present status compared to other cities of similar size, was authorized several weeks ago and is now being prepared.

Captain John Maestri, who is preparing the report, pointed out that the department will ask for more men at the next budget sessions. He said that, although the personnel roster shows that about 100 people are employed in the department, a share of these are matrons and administrative and office help and are not available for field duty.

SITE SELECTION STUDIED . . .

Planning Budget Submitted For South Bay State College

State Superintendents of Public Instruction, Dr. Roy E. Simpson, last week confirmed the fact that the Department of Education has submitted budget request to the finance department to provide planning staffs for the new South Bay State College, on top of the priority lists for two years, for the 1961-62 school year.

Budget requests for the project is \$183,025, and will provide the majority of the planning necessary for the opening of the college in rented facilities in the fall of 1962. Provision is also made for necessary operating expenses and equipment.

Additional planning funds will be available after the start of the 1961-62 fiscal year.

Assemblyman Charles Chapel, who interviewed Simpson last week said:

"The property acquisition board has always considered the effect of air traffic in connection with the selection of state college sites. Consider-

ation was also given to the new law which states . . . the college is to be "located in Los Angeles County in the vicinity of the Los Angeles International Airport." However, I want to emphasize that this is interpreted to mean within twenty miles of the airport."

Simpson stated that the major consideration in college site selection is the location of the population to be served. The recommended area previously mentioned in press releases is the "desirable area within which the college should be located in order to best serve the population of the primary service area."

H. C. Vincent, chief of the property acquisition division, has indicated that hearing dates for site selection have not been set.

BOAT THEFT

A boat, valued at \$4,000 by investigating officers, was stolen from the carport of an apartment house last week. Thieves cut the chain that linked boat and trailer to the garage, and wheeled it away.

CARRIER BOYS

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Three-Car Collision, Two Injured, Friday

Four persons were hospitalized Friday night and Saturday morning as a rash of traffic accidents hit the Torrance area.

Local traffic enforcement officers gloomily predicted that this weekend would provide no letup from the battering Christmas and New Year's weekends just ended.

Torrance police late Friday night reported a three-car collision at the corner of 182nd and Hawthorne that sent two persons to Little Company of Mary Hospital.

HOSPITALIZED

Hospitalized were Doris Spaulding, 11518 Spinning Ave., Torrance, and Thomas Bell, 16221 Prairie, Lawndale. Bell received lacerations of the face and

possible internal injuries, while Mrs. Spaulding was under observation for possible fractures. Both were said to be in "fair" condition by hospital authorities.

Drivers of the three cars, Martin Russell Bell, Jr., 25, 11631 S. Figueroa, Sara Jane Spaulding, 16, 11518 Spinning Ave., Torrance, and Sara Marie Emmi, 32, of 2602 Ralston Lane, Redondo, were cited. Two hospitalized persons were both passengers.

CHP REPORT

In a report from the California Highway Patrol, two injuries were logged following traffic accidents on Figueroa.

Alfredo Pacheco, 27, of 1208 W. "G" St., Wilmington, was taken to Kaiser

Medical Foundation after his car rolled over at the corner of Figueroa and Sepulveda.

Pacheco said that he lost control of his car when he swerved to keep from hitting pedestrian Gary Lee Nauman, US Navy, who was standing in the middle of the intersection waving at him.

Nauman was booked as common drunk by investigating officers.

Second accident, at the corner of 230th and Figueroa, took place when the automobile driven by John Ellis Usher, 31, of Hermosa Beach, crossed the dividing line and was hit by another driven by Hall Edwards, 27, of 21812 S. Figueroa, Torrance. Usher was taken to Harbor General.



WEEKEND DOUBLE-HEADER—First collision of this accident filled weekend took place Friday evening at the corner of Hawthorne Ave. and 182nd St. In top photo, Marlin R. Bell, driver, and Thomas Bell, wait for the ambulance to arrive following the three-car

crash. Below, ambulance attendants life injured Mrs. Doris Spaulding from the wreckage of her car. Both Mrs. Spaulding and Thomas Bell were confined for observation at Little Company of Mary Hospital, where their condition was described as "Fair."

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